

Proposers' Conference

Seattle Organics Processing - Request for Proposals

April 5, 2012

Attendees:

Larry Condon, Pacific Clean	Chris Husband, CleanScapes
Nicole Rinarro, Rinarro Consulting	Dan Bridges, Clean capes
Peter Moon, O2 Compost	Jason Lenz, Lenz Enterprises, Inc.
Harold Ruppert, O2 Compost	Tamara Thomas, Terre-Source
Don Bailey, Bailey Compost	Elizabeth Lowell, Harvest Power
Susan Thoman, Cedar Grove Composting	Alex MacFarlane, Harvest Power
Jerry Bartlett, Cedar Grove Composting	Letitia Wheeler, Elemental Solutions
Stephen Gross, Cedar Grove Composting	Timothy Croll, Seattle Public Utilities
Michael Mann, Cyan Strategies	Hans VanDusen, Seattle Public Utilities
Matt Henry, Allied Waste	Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner, Seattle Public Utilities

BACKGROUND (*Hans Van Dusen*)

Description of Seattle Solid Waste System:

- Seattle contracts for solid waste services with recycling, organics and garbage collection contracts in place with Waste Management and CleanScapes and separate processing contracts for recycling (with Republic) and organics (Cedar Grove). The current Cedar Grove contract began in 2001 and runs through March 2013 with extension dates to March 2014 and March 2015, at the City's option.
- Garbage and organics area delivered to the City's North and South Transfer Stations and Waste Management's Eastmont transfer station. Recycling is delivered directly to Republic's Third and Lander recycling plant.
- The City is rebuilding its transfer stations – there will be a new South station this summer and a new North station built in approximately 2014.
- Organics is currently processed at Cedar Grove's composting facilities in Maple Valley and Everett.
- Seattle has a strong partnership with Cedar Grove under the current since 2001, and as part of collection contracts prior.

RFP OVERVIEW

- The website where the Final RFP, Schedule, Proposer Question and Answers for Preview RFP, supporting documents is at seattle.gov/util/SolidWasteContracts
- The RFP does not specify a processing technology. All technologies and operations will be evaluated against the specifications and evaluation criteria in the RFP.

- Base specifications build on the current transfer/transportation system for delivery to processing or reload facility is within 50 miles.
- Price will be evaluated in terms of the total system cost adjustment to the City not just the tipping fee at the processing facility. The base option prices allow for all inclusive price for route loads tipped at proposer facility in Seattle.
- With pricing we also encourage Alternatives Proposals.

DRAFT RFP INPUT AND REVISIONS

- Redline version showing changes due to proposer comments is posted on the RFP website. Also available is “Proposers Questions and Answers Set #1”.
- The main issue areas were contamination, compostable packaging, contract length and inflation.
- Contamination – In addition to ongoing education and enforcement efforts, the City will provide disposal, at no charge, for all City-generated contamination based on periodic composition sampling. The City will also make a good faith effort to remove noticeable contamination during floor loading at the new South and new North stations.
- Compostable packaging – it is a requirement for fast food outlets to use either compostable or recyclable service ware.
- Contract Term – Due to input regarding inflation and other uncertainties, the contract term in the RFP has been shorted to a maximum of 10 years, instead of 16 years.
- Inflation – there was no change in the inflation index for the base specification. However, other measures will be accepted as alternatives.

RFP SCHEDULE

- A round of questions from proposers will be accepted by April 9 with City responses posted on the website by April 16.
- Final questions from proposers will be due on April 23 with City responses posted on the website by April 30.
- Proposals are due by May 29. The Final RFP did have an error on page 16 so an Addendum will be posted on RFP website that clarifies this due date.
- Interviews are expected on either July 17 or 18.
- Hans will attempt to notify attendees of the Proposers’ Conference of new posting, but it is proposers’ responsibility to go to the website for all updates.
- Proposers are also reminded to follow the communication protocol and only direct questions to Hans Van Dusen, the Project Manager.

QUESTION & ANSWERS DURING THE PROPOSER CONFERENCE

1. *Since contamination could be a problem, is there any screening or plans for screening at the transfer stage?*

Currently at the City's existing North and South transfer stations the curbside collected organics is tipped directly into a long-haul trailer, while at Waste Management's station, the organic loads are tipped on the floor. At the new South station, opening this summer, and the new north station in a few years, collected loads will be first tipped on the floor. City staff will then have the ability to scan for partial loads of high contamination that could be diverted to garbage. More intensive or sophisticated screening could be incorporated in a base or alternative proposal.

2. *Do you have outreach plan to customers which deals with minimizing contamination?*

There is constant outreach to customers which includes customer education and container tagging to reduce contamination. The RFP specifically requests proposers to address potential outreach partnerships.

3. *Do you have contamination levels under the current contract?*

The City just began a composition study of contractor collected residential and commercial carts. Results will be posted on the RFP website by April 16 for the February 2012 sampling data. Under the current processing contract, the City will take back all contamination generated from City loads. There is no disposal charge up to 1,000 tons per year of contamination. Over 1,000 tons the City charges \$80/ton. The contractor has rarely exceeded 1,000 tons.